

## **Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #28**

### **18 February 2023**

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#### **Engineering Heritage Recognition Program (EHRP)**

The 2023 National Trust Forum brings together a panel of experts representing heritage planning law, aboriginal heritage law reform, environmental protection and place management to

One of EHA's most important programs is the awarding of markers to items of engineering heritage significance. The program, which began in 1984, is managed by a sub-committee of EHA with support from Engineers Australia and a large number of site owners. To reflect changes in technology and the need to assist our audience in their access to program information, EHA has endorsed several initiatives developed as part of a review by the EHRP Committee. These initiatives include:

- 1.The move to a predominantly on-line information base for the EHRP;
- 2.Restructuring information requirements for new EHRP Nominations to facilitate the review of Nominations and to better support the various identified audiences;
3. An additional EHRP category 'Item of Engineering Interest' as a 'first-cut' list for possible new Nominations;
- 4.A default approach of a virtual Marker for all Nominations but with retention of the existing physical Markers and/or Information Panels on a site-by-site basis; and
5. Development of on-line links to Markers: i.e., whether by on-site QR codes or other geolocational tags.

The 2017 EHRP Guidelines will also now be updated to reflect these and other changes associated with the development of the new EHA/EHRP website, which is now well progressed.

The implementation of these initiatives will mean a significant increase in the workload of the EHRP over the next 1-2 years in addition to its ongoing role of reviewing Nominations for Marker. The EHRP Terms of Reference provide for up to 10 members for the Committee, which currently has five vacancies.

The Chairs of the Engineering Heritage branch/division committees have been asked to help in identifying and encouraging new nominations for EHRP Committee membership to assist in the interesting times ahead. The EHRP, as does EHA, represents all engineering disciplines and areas of practice; and interest from areas other than civil engineering would be most welcome. If you are interested in supporting the EHRP, please contact your local Engineering Heritage Committee Chair.

### **Engineering Heritage Australia Committees**

The Expression of Interest process managed by Engineers Australia for committee membership in 2023 has concluded. A list of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Secretaries is below:

Branch/Division	Chair	Deputy Chair	Secretary
Engineering Heritage Australia	Mike Taylor	Richard Muncey	Sudipta Basu Judy Lindsay Lyndon Tilbrook
Engineering Heritage Sydney	Frank Johnson	Bill Phippen	
Engineering Heritage Newcastle	Merv Lindsay		
Engineering Heritage Canberra	Phil Willis		Paul Balassone
Engineering Heritage Victoria	Guy Hodgkinson	Ian Newnham	
Engineering Heritage Queensland	Andrew Barnes		
Engineering Heritage Tasmania	Bob Taaffe	Bruce Cole	James Trevelyan
Engineering Heritage South Australia	David Kennedy		
Engineering Heritage Western Australia	Perry Beor	Russell Ellen	

The Engineering Heritage Northern Territory Committee is in recess.

*(From Mike Taylor)*

### **The 2023 National Trust Forum – 8/3/2023**

The 2023 National Trust Forum brings together a panel of experts representing heritage planning law, aboriginal heritage law reform, environmental protection and place management to discuss the big picture alongside the National Trust heritage priorities and ask...

- How did we get to a place where heritage legislation can simply be “turned off” for some developments?

- Why is NSW the only state in Australia without standalone Aboriginal Cultural heritage legislation?
- How can remnant urban bushland and significant urban trees be properly protected?
- Why is there no government mandated heritage design guide?
- Why has funding continuously dropped for local heritage when local heritage places are increasing in numbers?
- How can a new building get a 6 star green rating when it has demolished an existing historic building as part of its construction?
- Why are millions put into “activating” sites when existing museums and heritage sites struggle to stay afloat?
- What the National Trust is advocating for as the 2023 election approaches and why.
- Learn about the threats to natural, built and cultural heritage and what’s impacting our ability to manage these threats.
- Hear about what the National Trust has already done, what it is advocating for and the proposed solutions moving forward.
- Network with others for further discussion of the issues.

The event is to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the Customs House, coincidentally close to Cadman’s Cottage.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/2023-national-trust-forum>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2023-national-trust-forum-tickets-493417905237>

*(From Ian Bowie)*

## **Redevelopment of the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo in Sydney**

No doubt all who have an interest in engineering heritage have heard of the ongoing controversy surrounding the redevelopment of the Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo in Sydney.



In June 2021, Neil Hogg and I met with Peter Collins, President of the Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, and Lisa Havilah, Chief Executive, to express our concern at the lack of engineering, science and technology (STEM) in the redevelopment plans. Our concerns are in line with those of the Powerhouse Museum Alliance (which includes former staff members of the Museum).

However, it appears that all these concerns were of no impact, for the over-riding focus is still on fashion and the arts. This has been well reported in the Sydney media but it is obvious that the directions being adopted are pretty well fixed.

In December 2022, EHS was approached by a representative of the Powerhouse Museum Alliance, requesting our further support. They asked if we could write to the Premier over this issue, as they are to meet with the Minister for the Arts in February 2023. Bill Phippen drafted a letter of support (the draft of which was very well received by the Powerhouse Museum Alliance), and we were able to get it signed by our Engineers Australia Chief Engineer, Jane MacMaster, and our Sydney Division President, Professor Olivia Mirza. This letter was sent to the Premier and the Minister for the Arts, with copies to the Trust President and Museum Chief Executive.

A copy of this letter is attached for your information and it would be great if EHS Members and Associates could support our EA / EHS position to the fullest extent possible.

*(From Frank Johnson)*



## National-Trust-submission for the Warragamba-Dam Wall Raising

Warragamba Dam (1960) is a major component of Sydney's water supply and the controversial project for raising the dam level has been a political hot potato for many years. In the light of the forthcoming NSW state election, the National Trust (NSW) has made a submission, attached, to the government. The declared purpose of the project is to reduce downstream flooding, not to increase long-term storage capacity.



Peter bertok at the English-language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

*(From Ian Bowie)*

### **Contributions needed**

*Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at [fshawash@yahoo.com](mailto:fshawash@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.*

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